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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 0302

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: ELAB, CS
SUBJECT: DOHERTY VISIT

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DOHERTY MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT ODUBER AND VICE PRESIDENT CASTILLO WENT WELL. ODUBER REITERATED DESIRE FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE FOR A COSTA RICAN LABOR PROGRAM

TO HELP THWART COMMUNIST INROADS. HE ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE AN ABOVE-BOARD PLAN FOR U.S. TRAINING AND SUBSEQUENT AFL/CIO (NOT AIFLD) SUPPORT IN COUNTRY FOR FOUR FULL-TIME ACTIVISTS. AMBASSADOR, DOHERTY, VICE PRESIDENT, AND MINISTER OF LABOR WILL REVIEW DETAILS AND COSTA RICAN PROPOSALS ON JANUARY 21. END SUMMARY.

2. AIFLD EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WILLIAM DOHERTY AND PARTY, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFFS, MET WITH PRESIDENT ODUBER, VICE PRESIDENT CASTILLO, MINISTER OF LABOR MORALES, AND SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE PLN MONGE ON JANUARY 20 TO DISCUSS LABOR PROGRAMS IN COSTA RICA. MORNING MEETING AT VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, AND WORKING LUNCH AT EMBASSY RESIDENCE WITH PRESIDENT ODUBER AND VICE PRESIDENT CASTILLO WENT VERY WELL. COSTA RICANS AGAIN VOICED CONCERN AT COMMUNIST INROADS IN COSTA RICAN LABOR MOVEMENT AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENTIAL

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THEIR STRONG DESIRE TO HAVE U.S. ASSISTANCE IN A LABOR PROGRAM IN COSTA RICA. VICE PRESIDENT CASTILLO UNDERLINED NEED FOR A COSTA RICAN (NOT A U.S.2 PROGRAM. DOHERTY EXPLAINED THAT AIFLD WOULD ONLY DO WHAT THE COSTA RICANS

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WANT THE WAY THEY WANT IT.

3. PRIOR TO MEETINGS, AMBASSADOR REVIEWED WITH DOHERTY THREE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH A LABOR PROGRAM MUST FUNCTION IN COSTA RICA: IT MUST BE OPEN AND ABOVE BOARD; ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES WILL NOT INVOLVE THE USG OR AIFLD (THAT IS, THEY MUST BE UNION TO UNION); PROGRAM WILL DEAL WITH ALL DEMOCRATIC FACTIONS OF COSTA RICAN LABOR MOVEMENT--TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO FUTURE CHARGES THAT WE SUPPORT ONLY ONE.

4. DOHERTY OUTLINED FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT WHAT AIFLD HAD IN MIND FOR COSTA RICA:

A. A SHORT COURSE IN IDEOLOGY FOR THE CCTD EXECUTIVE BOARD AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC UNION LEADERSHIPS TO BE GIVEN IN SAN JOSE BY AIFLD'S DAN MONTENEGRO. IF LEADERSHIP WANTS, MONTENEGRO WILL BE PREPARED TO STAY OR TO RETURN LATER TO CONTINUE IDEOLOGICAL TRAINING WITH LABOR GROUPS IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS.

B. A NEW AIFLD-SPONSORED COURSE IN MODERN ORGANIZING TECHNIQUES TO BE OFFERED AT GEORGETOWN FOR FOUR COSTA RICAN LABOR ACTIVISTS. AFL/CIO (NOT AIFLD) WILL ALSO PROVIDE FUNDS TO SUPPORT THESE FULL-TIME ORGANIZATIONS
FOR 9-12
MONTHS AFTER THEY RETURN TO COSTA RICA. TWO OF FOUR STUDENTS MUST BE FROM RURAL AREAS.

C. AIFLD EDUCATIONAL COURSES FOR CCTD AND INDEPENDENTS IN COSTA RICA. UNLIKE PREVIOUS PROGRAM, AIFLD WILL HANDLE ALL FUNDING; THELUNIONS WILL SELECT COURSES, PLACES, AND PARTICIPANTS.

5. PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO DOHERTY'S SUGGESTIONS, AS DOES EMBASSY, DOHERTY, VICE PRESIDENT CASTILLO, MINISTER OF LABOR MORALES, AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFFS WILL MEET JANUARY 21 TO LOOK AT THESE PROPOSALS IN MORE DETAIL, AND TO RECEIVE AND REVIEW ANY COSTA RICAN PROPOSALS.
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6. IN POLITICAL ASIDE, PRESIDENT ODUBER AGREED WITH DOHERTY'S OBSERVATION THAH NONE OF CURRENT CROP OF PRESENT OR FUTURE LEADERS SHOULD BE A PARTY MEMBER FIRST AND A TRADE UNIONIST SECOND; IT SHOULD BE THE OTHER WAY AROUND. ODUBER NOTED THAT ONE OF THE PROBLEMS WITH COSTA RICA'S DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENT OVER THE YEARS HAS BEEN THAT THE GOOD LABOR LEADERS HAVE MOVED TO PARTY POLITICS AND LEFT THE LABOR MOVEMENT BEREFT OF LEADERSHIP;
THE COMMUNISTS DO NOT MAKE SUCH MISTAKES.

7. COMMENT: MEETINGS WERE EXTREMELY CORDIAL AND FRANK. VICE PRESIDENT CASTIWLO INFORMED THAT GOCR IS NOW READY TO MOVE ACTIVELY IN LABOR ACTIVITIES, ADMITTING THAT IN RECENT

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YEARS THE GOCR HAD PAID LITTLE ATTENTION TO LABOR BECAUSE THEIR SUPPORT WAS NOT A KEY ELEMENT IN THE POLITICAL ARENA. RECENT COMMUNIST INROADS, HOWEVER, COMPEL A CHANGE, AND GOCR PREPARED TO MAKE WHAT THEY RECOGNIZED WILL BE A LONG TERM COMMITMENT.

8. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT COSTA RICANS HAVE PREPARED THEMSELVES FOR DOHERTY VISIT AND WILL BE PRESENTING PROGRAM PROPOSALS OF THEIR OWN IN JANUARY 21 MEETING. VICE PRESIDENT CASTILLO IN INITIAL MEETING WITH DOHERTY AND AMBASSADOR GAVE GENERAL OUTLINES OF GOCR THINKING: ASSISTANCE IN TRAINING ORGANIZERS AND TRAINING OF A YOUNGER GENERATION OF COSTA RICAN LABOR LEADERS.
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